

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8870

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6417

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AS, PLOS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK'S RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S
AUGUST 30 LETTER ON THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 213536

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK'S
REPLY TO THE SECRETARY'S AUGUST 30 LETTER ON THE LAW OF THE
SEA CONFERENCE. THE ORIGINAL IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DE-
PARTMENT.

2. QTE. CANBERRA, A.C.T. 3 SEPTEMBER 1976

MY DEAR HENRY,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FURTHER LETTER ABOUT THE LAW OF THE
SEA CONFERENCE IN WHICH YOU RE-EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ADVISE THAT YOU PROPOSE TO RETURN TO
NEW YORK TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON AN
OVERALL PACKAGE AT THIS SESSION. OUR RECENT ASSESSMENTS OF
PROGRESS ACCORD COMPLETELY WITH YOUR VIEWS ON THE NEED FOR
SUCH AN INITIATIVE, AND I WARMLY WELCOME YOUR PROPOSAL TO
INTERVENE PERSONALLY AT THIS MOST CRITICAL PHASE OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. QTE. WE AGREE THAT A SATISFACTORY LAW OF THE SEA CONVEN-
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TION CAN AND MUST BE REACHED, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE IN THE

CONTEXT OF THE FOUR PRINCIPLES YOU HAVE ENUNCIATED.
BUT IN ONE IMPORTANT RESPECT WE MUST RECORD OUR POSITION. WE HAVE BEEN AND ARE MAINTAINING, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THAT A COASTAL STATE SHOULD NOT BE UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO SHARE REVENUES IN RESPECT OF ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND 200 MILES. OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, IN NO WAY WEAKENS OUR DESIRE TO SEE A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS.

4. QTE WE FURTHER AGREE ON THE NEED TO IMPRESS ON ALL PARTICIPANTS A SENSE OF URGENCY, AND AN APPRECIATION OF THE ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS IF THE CONFERENCE WERE NOT TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AT THIS SESSION. I AM INSTRUCTING THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK TO MAKE RE-NEWED EFFORTS IN THIS SENSE. YOU MAY COUNT ON OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE SIMILAR ACTION WHICH I ANTICIPATE THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE.

YOURS SINCERELY,

(SIGNED)

ANDREW PEACOCK END QTE

HARGROVE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. MACFARLANE.

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